

# Sunburst

Vol. 47 No. 13

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base community

Friday, April 2, 2004



## Briefly

### Spring forward

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday. Remember to set clocks forward one hour.

### Women's History Month

The Dress for Success Fashion Show is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday at the Whispering Sands Community Center.

### Science stars

More than 250 middle and high school students competed in the 45th Southwestern New Mexico Regional Science and Engineering Fair March 20. The following Holloman students took the Copper Award:

**Tabatha Pinckney**, "Get Boiling," Junior Chemistry category.

**Kevin Turner**, "There it Blows," Junior Earth Science category.

**Ayla Moody** "Extra! Cloned Dairy Products," Junior Medicine and Health Sciences category.

### Sortie Goals

as of March 23

Goal	Flown	Delta
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7th Combat Training Squadron F-117		
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104	68	-4
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7th Combat Training Squadron T-38		
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317	252	17
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8th Fighter Squadron		
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298	217	11
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9th Fighter Squadron		
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301	204	-5
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20th Fighter Squadron		
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226	189	28
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## Two F-117A pilots reach 1,000 hours

by Senior Airman Martha Whipple  
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Photo by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

Lt. Col. Frank Rogers (above) and Maj. John Markle (not pictured) reached 1,000 flying hours in the F-117A Nighthawk Monday.

Two pilots reached 1,000 flying hours in the F-117A Nighthawk when they touched down on Holloman's runway Monday.

Lt. Col. Frank Rogers, Detachment 1, 53rd Test and Evaluations Group Operations director, and Maj. John Markle, 7th Combat Training Squadron Assistant Operations director are the 14th and 15th F-117A pilots to reach this milestone.

"I feel extremely fortunate to be in a group of highly distinguished fighter pilots," said Colonel Rogers, who has been in the Air Force for 22 years. "If you stay healthy and avoid staff jobs, the flying hours continue to build."

Major Markle said achieving this milestone at the same time with Colonel Rogers adds significance. Colonel Rogers was the standardization and evaluation flight examiner during Major Markle's first F-111E Aardvark instrument qualification check ride in 1990 while flying with the NATO tigers. The pair flew together during Operation Allied Force in 1999.

Major Markle said during his first

**see HOURS on Page 6**

## MOC opens new facility at building 811

by Airman 1st Class

**Stephen Collier**

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 49th Maintenance Operations Center officially opens its new facility at 2 p.m. today during

a grand opening ceremony at building 811.

Under the command of the 49th Maintenance Operations Squadron, the newly renovated MOC's function is to be the information hub of all maintenance activity, such as

helping monitor and coordinate flightline operations like maintenance documentation, flightline support and emergency notifications, according to Master Sgt.

**see MOC on Page 9**



High: 77  
Low: 52  
TODAY



High: 70  
Low: 44  
SATURDAY



High: 73  
Low: 40  
SUNDAY



High: 78  
Low: 38  
MONDAY

Weather forecast provided by the 49th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight



Photo by Mr. Tom Fuller

## On the move

Bobcat operator Mr. Samuel Aragon, Mr. Tony Thatcher (left) and Mr. Mat Blogett, who are all Mesa Verde construction workers, use a Bobcat front loader to brace the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action granite plaque at the old Heritage Park prior to demolishing the surrounding brick wall. The plaque will be moved to the new Heritage Park, located south of building 29, is scheduled to be completed later this month.

# Safety chief offers advice about fitness

by Lt. Col. Skip Hinman  
49 Fighter Wing Safety chief

The new Air Force Fitness Program and improving weather invite increased exercise, sports and recreational activities at Holloman.

I would like to offer some thoughts that may help prevent your getting hurt while participating in these activities.

For people training for the fitness test, walk a lap around the track and stretch before you run.

Also, walk and stretch after you run as well. Stay well hydrated and know your limitations.

As it gets warmer during the day, consider running early in the morning or on the track inside the gym.

Some folks have started lifting weights to improve their fitness and test scores.

If you haven't lifted weights before, ask the fitness center staff for some train-

ing before you use the equipment.

We live in an era of "extreme sports" such as snowboarding, mountain biking and the like. It's important for commanders and supervisors to know when their folks are involved in these types of sports and to routinely counsel them on ways to increase safety and minimize risk while participating in these activities.

Many units have begun to increase organized PT and sports events. I've always been a big advocate of these types of activities and am encouraged to see squadron mates improving their fitness as they play sports together.

I would, however, like to encourage supervisors and commanders to choose these events carefully.

Provide your folks with the necessary equipment and require them to wear it properly.

Ensure everyone understands the rules and plays by them. Encourage

friendly competition so everyone can enjoy the game without hurting themselves or others.

When your unit gets together for PT, make sure you have a cell phone readily available in case of an emergency.

It's also a good idea to ensure plenty of your folks are trained in CPR and are available during PT. In fact, especially for larger groups, having a portable defibrillator handy may sound a little silly... until it saves a life.

It's interesting to note that basketball causes more injuries and lost duty time throughout the Air Force than any other sport. You may consider a different sport. Unfortunately, like many of you, I like basketball.

If you can't resist and choose basketball as your unit sports event, give me a call and I'll join you. Not because I want to play, of course, but only because I would like to be there to help you ensure your folks are being safe.

## DUI Update

Days since last DUI	<b>11</b>
DUIs this year	<b>16</b>
This week last year	<b>12</b>

### Last six DUIs

• 49 OSS	March 22
• 49 MMS	Feb. 21
• 8 AMU	Feb. 16
• 49 MMS	Feb. 13
• 49 LRS	Feb. 8
• 49 CS	Feb. 7

## 572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

<b>354</b> Saves this year
<b>21</b> Saves this week



### Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt	49th Fighter Wing commander
Maj. John Bryan	Public Affairs director
1st Lt. Nora Eyle	Public Affairs deputy director
Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud	NCOIC
Senior Airman Martha Whipple	Editor
Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier	Staff writer
Ms. Laura Pellegrino	Staff writer

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# Airman with a capital “A”

by **Gen. John P. Jumper**  
*Air Force chief of staff*

I am an Airman.

Note that’s with a capital “A.” It’s just one letter at the beginning of the word, but it signifies a great deal. The reason it is capitalized is simple: Airmen in the United States Air Force are the heart and soul of our unique fighting force, and should be identified by a proper noun.

As young children, when we began to read, we learned a capital letter at the front of a word signified something special or important — like our own name, our hometown, and our country. And this was reinforced through our education and professional life. When we see a capital letter, our minds automatically emphasize that word, and we bestow an increased importance

on that person, place, or thing. It is time to formally add our profession to that list of important and special nouns.

You may have seen or heard something about my guidance to capitalize the word “Airman.” It is appropriate to do so, in recognition of our rich history, and to emphasize our unparalleled role in the defense of America.

Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen that have devoted their lives to dominating the skies. Capitalizing the word “Airman” recognizes their historic achievements and signifies our unique contributions to fighting and winning America’s wars. It shows we’ve earned the respect a proper name imparts.

**“It shows we’ve earned the respect a proper name imparts.”**

**Gen. John P. Jumper**  
*Air Force chief of staff*

For 38 years of my life, I’ve been proud to wear the uniform of the United States Air Force. And, whether you’ve worn it as long as I have or just recently joined our team, I know we all feel the same sense of pride. Regardless of the uniform we wear, the specialty we hold, the badge over our pocket, and whether we are active duty, guard, reserve, or civilian, first and foremost, we are Airmen.

We are one Air Force and we are Airmen.

## Wing campaign begins

### Wear it or walk

by **Senior Airman Martha Whipple**  
*49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

People who don’t wear their seat belts should think about buying a pair of good walking shoes.

The 49th Fighter Wing is kicking off its “Wear it or Walk” seat belt safety campaign April 21 to meet Air Combat Command’s 99-percent seat belt compliance goal and to keep Airmen at Holloman safe.

Currently, the wing maintains about 94- to 98-percent compliance, according to Tech. Sgt. Diane Mula, traffic safety NCO.

Because driving on Holloman is a privilege, all drivers will follow the rules regarding seat belt use, said Capt. Daniel Watson, 49th FW Assistant Staff Judge Advocate. Contractors, retirees, dependents, civilians and Airmen must wear seat belts while their vehicles are in motion on the installation. Children must be properly buckled into a child restraint or booster seat. The driver is held responsible for passengers who don’t buckle up.

According to Air Force regulation, violators will be ticketed and have driving privileges revoked for at least five days. Additionally, non-active duty violators are subject to a \$25 fine. All violators are required to complete the driver’s improvement safety course conducted by the 49th Fighter Wing Safety office. The



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

**Team Holloman members are reminded to buckle up. The Wear it or Walk campaign begins April 21.**

accumulation of three seat belt violations can lead to a one-year revocation of privileges, because each offense adds four points to a violator’s driving record.

The 49th Security Forces Squadron will set up traffic control points to conduct random seat belt checks beginning April 21.

Recently, there was a serious accident involving two vehicles driven by Airmen from another base. One Airman wearing a seat belt survived; the other did not, according to Safety Chief Jerry McDermott

“The goal of the ‘Wear it or Walk’ program is to keep Airmen alive,” he said. “Taking care of the Air Force’s most valuable asset is vital to mission success.”



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

## Daddy's love

**Staff Sgt. Fernando Samaniego, 49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron supply manager, gives son Anthony, 2, a kiss at the Child Development Center Wednesday. April is the month of the military child.**

# AEF is the heart of Air Force organizational transformation

**by Lt. Col. Timothy Fay**  
*Operations Support Squadron commander Lajes Field*

AEF. These three letters represent the heart of the organizational transformation of our Air Force, yet somehow this ever-growing and evolving Air and Space Expeditionary Force construct is misunderstood by many of our Air Force's air and space power warriors.

With another AEF rotation approaching, this is a great time to review the fundamentals of the AEF concept and what it means to us as Air Force warriors. Perhaps the best summary of the AEF concept I have seen is the Air Force's Transformation Flight Plan. You can see for yourself by clicking on the related link in this commentary.

It describes the AEF as a wealth of capabilities. This "bucket" is how the Air Force presents its forces to combatant commanders. Comparing it to a sister service, the Navy has long presented its forces in carrier battle groups. Every commander in every service understood that each carrier battle group could steam so far, so fast and put "X"

many weapons on target over "Y" many days. It was a known quantity of capabilities. We have done the same with the AEF. Each force package is composed of roughly the same capability of air and space power for combatant commanders to call on to help win our nation's wars.

Each AEF is a combination of combat air forces, mobility air forces, expeditionary combat support, and low density/high demand assets. Together, this synergistic basket of capabilities is wrapped into one AEF package.

Right now, our Air Force is divided into 10 AEFs. We pair two of these AEFs together, so in total we have five AEF rotations. This means that if things are steady in the world, each expeditionary Airman must be ready to deploy during his or her regular AEF vulnerability window for 90 days during every 15-month period.

This means all of your readiness ducks must be in a row. This ranges from medical to training readiness, to personal and family readiness issues. Each unit has a readiness officer or NCO who ensures we all remain pre-

pared, but each one of us is ultimately responsible for keeping ourselves as ready as possible at all times.

Of course, when we have a major operation like Iraqi Freedom, the Air Force must do what is needed. The regular rotation schedule may be modified or extended to win the war. Why do we do things this way? The Air Force chief of staff wants to make our lives better. If we know when our AEF turn is coming and how long it will last, then we can plan our personal and professional lives and prepare to fight.

It adds stability to our lives and predictability to our deployments. The AEF also helps solve our Air Force's problem of how to prepare to fight in a chaotic world. We no longer know from whom or from where in the world the challenges to freedom will come, so we must be ready to go anywhere, anytime, and be ready to fight and win. The AEF rotation gets and keeps us ready.

This, then, is our Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary Force — the way we are now organized to fight and win.

# ZOP zaps overpricing

by Senior Airman  
**Martha Whipple**  
*49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Think your organization is paying too much for an item? The Air Force uses the Zero Overpricing Program to reduce items that are over priced in Air Force acquisitions while giving an avenue for its members to become involved in the efficient use of tax dollars.

“The 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron strives to maximize the use of its resources,” said Nancy Jarka, 49th LRS Chief Equipment Liaison Office. “With the ZOP, members can challenge the price of an item bought by their organization.”

ZOP provides the ability to reduce overpricing in the Air Force and other Department of Defense acquisitions. “This program saves tax dollars. Air Force members have first-hand knowledge of what items are worth, so they can

compare prices to determine if the Air Force and DoD are paying too much for an item.”

An Air Force form can be submitted to the 49th LRS customer service unit to challenge any suspected over-priced item. The unit will research the challenge, and then submit it to the supply source.

“If the item is deemed over-priced, the customer may earn a monetary award, or recognition for their efforts in promoting the efficient use of funds,” she said.

When a ZOP is accepted, the government will begin buying items at the challenged price, “This saves tax dollars.”

“This is a great program for Air Force members,” Mrs. Jarka said. “Air Force members have a chance to be more involved and receive monetary awards. At the same time, they are doing a great justice for us all by saving tax dollars. I encourage everyone to get involved and make a difference.”



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

## Chili to go

**Second Lt. Charnelle Joiner, 49th Comptroller Squadron disbursing officer, gets a serving of chili from Airman 1st Class Michael Artis. Senior Airman Jessica Alfkey (center) also helped serve during the 49th Comptroller Squadron’s chili-cookoff Monday.**

# HOURS *Continued from Page One*

three-year tour, he flew 534 hours. Most pilots only fly about 300 to 450 hours, but because of deployments from 1997 to 1999, Major Markle was able to fly more hours.

In a family of about 500 F-117A pilots, few accomplish this feat because these pilots normally serve only one three-year tour. Colonel Rogers has served at Holloman for almost seven years and plans to be the F-117A weapons projects officer at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Major Markle served one tour, then a remote at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, and returned to Holloman for another tour. During the second tour, Major Markle flew 466 hours to reach the 1,000-hour milestone.

Major Markle said reaching 1,000 is an honor, but one of his greatest moments was flying an F-117A at an airshow in New Jersey. His dad cleared him over the radio into the airshow airspace. After the performance, people were thanking him and children were asking how they could become a pilot.

"This brought back the memories of my first airshow," he said. "My dad took me to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. F-



Photo by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

**Lt. Col. Frank Rogers (left) and Maj. John Markle reached 1,000 flying hours in the F-117A Nighthawk after touching down on Holloman's runway Monday.**

105s, F-106s and F-4s were flying low and fast. That did it; my goal then was to become what I

am today: a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Now it's my turn to plant that goal for others."

## Air Force announces new SRB list

Bluesuiters will see significant changes in the newly released selective re-enlistment bonus list resulting from solid retention rates, Pentagon officials said.

Following the selective re-enlistment review board, the Air Force has published the latest SRB list which contains 62 Air Force specialties.

"The SRB program is a retention tool the Air Force uses as an incentive to help keep the right people in the right jobs to accomplish our mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Maria Cornelia, chief of retention and bonus programs at Air Force headquarters Air Force Personnel Center Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

"During this period of improved retention, it is prudent

to make adjustments," she said. "Airmen should remember that SRBs are not an entitlement and must be adjusted to meet Air Force needs."

All enlisted skills were reviewed, including reporting and special-duty identifiers, officials said.

The criteria used for determining which enlisted skills will receive an SRB include current and projected manning levels, re-enlistment trends, career-field force structure changes and inputs from individual career-field managers. SRBs are authorized in 0.5 increments, or multiples, and in three re-enlistment zones for people with between 17 months and 14 years of service.

Zone A, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between 17

months and six years of service, incurred nine increases, 19 reductions and 86 removals. Zone B, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between six and 10 years of service, had eight increases, 18 reductions and 80 removals. Zone C, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between 10 and 14 years of service, saw one increase, four decreases and 32 removals.

Additions and multiple increases are effective March 30. The SRB multiple decreases and deletions are effective April 30. The new list of bonuses is posted at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlistments/reenlistments.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlistments/reenlistments.htm).

For more information, contact Holloman's reenlistments and extensions office at 572-3373. (AFPN)



# Hometown USAF (Vol. 6)

- ACROSS**
- 1. Train need
  - 5. Washington AFB home to 62nd AW
  - 8. Former California Army fort
  - 9. Oklahoma AFB home to 71st FTW; a/c tail marking of VN
  - 11. Romantic song
  - 12. Adhesive
  - 14. Winter danger
  - 15. Owed
  - 16. Apartment
  - 17. Homer’s neighbor on *The Simpsons*
  - 18. Shah of Persia (1487-1524); Safavid founder
  - 20. Military comm. person in the field (abbrev.)
  - 21. Truck
  - 22. Easter animal?
  - 24. Snakelike fish
  - 25. 007 writer Fleming
  - 27. LPGA Se Ri \_\_\_\_
  - 29. Missouri AFB home to 509th BW; a/c tail marking of WM
  - 32. Drainage pipe
  - 34. Weary
  - 35. Duo
  - 36. Military org. concerned with household goods
  - 37. \_\_\_\_ Khan; hereditary spiritual head of Isma’ili Muslims
  - 39. Story opener
  - 42. Snare

- 44. Cell acid similar to DNA
  - 47. Ohio AFB home to ASC
  - 50. Mining vein
  - 51. NBC television show
  - 52. Lyrical poem
  - 53. Mississippi AFB home to 403rd WG; a/c tail marking of KT
  - 54. Was aware of
- DOWN**
- 1. Georgia AFB home to 116th ACW; a/c tail marking of GA
  - 2. Scavenger hunt (two words)
  - 3. Rested
  - 4. Angry
  - 5. New Jersey AFB home to 108th ARW; a/c tail marking of NJ
  - 6. Sky-blue color
  - 7. Shade
  - 9. California AFB home to 30th SW; a/c tail markings of HV
  - 10. Florida AFB home to 920th RG; a/c tail marking of FL
  - 13. Woman’s magazine
  - 16. Clenched hand
  - 19. England AB home to 423rd ABS
  - 22. Military allowance (abbrev.)
  - 23. Item
  - 25. WWII site for 27 Medal of Honor recipients: \_\_\_\_ Jima
  - 26. Father
  - 27. Colorado AFB home to 302nd AW; a/c tail marking of CR

1	2	3			4		5	6		7				
8				9										10
11							12					13		
14						15					16			
17							18		19					
							20				21			
	22	23					24							
25						26						27	28	
29			30		31			32	33					
		34					35				36			
			37				38		39					
40		41			42	43						44	45	46
47	48		49											
50						51						52		
	53										54			

- 28. Appendage
- 30. Actress Carrere of *Wayne’s World*
- 31. Intended
- 33. Period of time
- 38. Whitewater independent counsel
- 40. Pointed tool
- 41. Current
- 43. Fencing sword
- 45. Stem knob
- 46. Again
- 48. South Korea informally
- 49. Expletive denoting surprise

# Free child care program extended

by Senior Airman  
Martha Whipple  
*49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The free child care for members who have to work extra time due to the Global War on Terror has been extended.

This includes those working extended shifts during exercises, in preparation for deployment, or longer hours to compensate because others in your shop are deployed.

The Air Force Services director extended a waiver to the co-payment for extended duty care programs, which provide child care for families who need to work beyond the regular 40-hour work week.

"This program helps military members meet the mission without interruption," said Lt. Col. Terri Toppin, 49th Services Squadron commander.

Team Holloman can really benefit from this program because knowing their children's safety, health and well-being helps military members focus on



Photo by Ms. Laura Pellegrino

**Christine Rowe, child development assistant, feeds ten-month-old Isaac Montoya his breakfast. Fees at the child development center cover breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack, as well as formula and baby food for infants.**

the mission, Colonel Toppin said.

The waiver is extended until further notice to reduce the stress on parents during the Global War on Terrorism. The waiver applies to extended duty

care, missile care, mildly ill care and returning home care programs. The EDC is not intended to meet parents' regular child care arrangements.

For more information, call Therese Wiley at 572-5848.

## Holloman Salutes



The following senior airmen graduated Airman Leadership School Class 04-C ...

### 49th Maintenance Squadron

Michael Bobo  
Kevin Buchanan  
Kenneth Crow  
Angela Seely

### 49th Materiel Maintenance Squadron

Ryan Blumberg  
Robert Dwyer

### 49th Operations Support Squadron

Bettina Gritten  
Jared Simpach

### 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Erik James Castro  
Montoria Davenport  
Vivian Lewis  
Juan Silva  
Christopher Sweeten

### 49th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Samantha Harrison

### 49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron

Susan Benton

### 49th Communications Squadron

Stacey Coats  
Thomas Howard

### 49th Materiel Maintenance Group

Christina Holguin

### 9th Fighter Squadron

Michael McArty

### 49th Civil Engineer Squadron

Kristopher Johnson

### 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jonathan Chandler  
Richard Holguin  
Anthony Kraling  
Joshua Lagania  
James Merritt  
Michael Norwood  
Nathan Pink  
Wade Steinback

*John L. Levitow Award: Senior Airman Jared Simpach*

*Academic Award: Senior Airman Ryan Blumberg*

*Leadership Award: Senior Airman James Merritt*

*Distinguished Graduates: Senior Airmen Joshua Lagania and James Merritt*



# MOC *Continued from Page One*

Kenneth Pennie, MOC superintendent.

“The Holloman MOC is on the cutting edge of operation centers in Air Combat Command,” Sergeant Pennie said. “The state of the art equipment here drastically improves our capabilities.”

Changes made to the \$300,000 facility include flat screen televisions for easy reference to flightline data, digital radios and a new mass notification system that automatically informs proper agencies of emergencies.

Tech. Sgt. Gerald Greenwood, a MOC senior controller, said the old MOC was a cramped, 200-square foot work space with out-of-date equipment and stress-inducing noise levels brought on by radios and telephones in the wing command post.

Maj. Mark Rose, 49th MOS commander, said the move, a result of the October 2002 Air Force combat wing reorganization, helps improve communication between the 49th Maintenance Group and wing command section.

“The Air Force intended the move to help bring flightline maintainers and operation centers together for a closer relationship.”

Major Rose went on to say he was proud of the job his Airmen at the MOC had done at the new location as they not only achieved the challenge set before them, but went way beyond that line and set an all-new benchmark of excellence.

“Their work exemplifies professionalism at its best,” he said. “Sergeant Greenwood and



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

**Senior Airman Leamon Combs, 49th Maintenance Operations Center controller, reviews technical data to relay to flightline personnel. The MOC cut the ribbon on a renovated facility near building 811 today.**

other MOC personnel took time away from their families to make sure this facility was completed. This new MOC is truly a 21st century operations center that other MOCs will be judged by in the future.”



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from March 23 to Monday.

## Tickets

Security Forces issued 18 tickets: three for a parking violation, one for driving with a suspended license, one for failure to dim headlamps, one for limitations on backing, one for expired registration, one for failure to stop, one for inattentive driving, one for unsigned registration, one for careless driving, six for speeding one to 10 mph over the speed limit and one for speeding 11 to 15 mph over the speed limit.

## Patrol response

- March 26 – An NCO reported loud music in base housing.
- March 27 – A family member reported a verbal dispute.
- March 28 – An Airman reported her spouse locked her out of the house after a verbal dispute.
- March 28 – An officer reported an Airman was sexually harassed.
- March 28 – A family member reported hearing scratching and heavy breathing coming from her gate.

## Property loss, damage or theft

- March 24 – An NCO reported seeing another NCO’s family member, who has a suspended driver’s license, driving a vehicle in front of building 222.
- March 24 – There was a minor accident between two government-owned vehicles.
- March 26 – An Airman re-

ported his privately owned vehicle was hit by the door of an unknown passenger in a GOV at the fitness center.

- March 28 – There was a minor accident between two POVs on New Mexico Avenue.
- March 28 – An NCO reported his POV was involved in a hit and run at the fitness center.
- March 29 – An Airman’s POV rear-ended an NCO’s POV at a stop sign.
- March 29 – An Airman backed a GOV into a parked GOV in the parking lot of building 54.

## Civil arrest

- March 26 – An NCO was arrested in Alamogordo for disorderly conduct.
- March 27 – An Airman was arrested at the intersection of Highway 70 and 54 for driving under the influence.

# What’s going on in the Tularosa Basin and beyond...

## Comedy show

Nationally known singer/comedian Broderick Rice will perform at 7 p.m., May 1 at Christian Joy Center Church in El Paso, Texas, 1208 Sumac Dr.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at Christian Joy Center Alamogordo, 1502 East 10th St. and Star of the Morning Christian Book Store, 1508 East 10th St. Children 2 and under are free.

The event is limited seating and there is an additional charge at the door.

For more information call the Christian Joy Center Church at (915) 595-1307.

## Trinity site tour

White Sands Missile Range will open the Trinity Site to the public for an open house on Saturday.

For more detailed information concerning Trinity Site, go to the missile range’s official Web pages at [www.wsmr.army.mil/paopage/pao.htm](http://www.wsmr.army.mil/paopage/pao.htm).

For more information, call the White Sands Missile Range public affairs office at (505) 678-1134.

## Writers’ Corner

The Writers’ Corner is a friendly, informal group of aspiring writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Meetings are 4 p.m., the third Friday of each month in the NMSU-A Writing Center, 2400 N. Scenic Drive.

For more information call Ms. Sandra Riordan at 439-3712 or e-mail [riordan@nmsua.nmsu.edu](mailto:riordan@nmsua.nmsu.edu).

## Petting zoo

Hedrick’s Educational Petting Zoo will be in Alamogordo from 10 a.m. till dark, May 6 through 9 outside of K-Mart.

Cost is \$1 or one K-Mart receipt.

## Shooting match

The Otero Practical Shooting Association has a Cowboy

Action Shooting Match at 9 a.m., Saturday at the Sydney Paul Gordon Shooting Range in La Luz.

Sign up is at 8:30 a.m. The match is open to the public.

For more information, call Mr. Butch Rials at 437-3663.

## Library friends

Friends of the Library meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the multipurpose room of the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Avenue. Anyone interested in helping with projects for the Library is encouraged to attend.

For more information call the library at 439-4140.

## Poetry group

The Poetry Group, an informal group of traditional style poets, meets at 1 p.m., the third Thursday of each month at the Alamogordo Senior Center.

## Relay for life

Relay for Life meetings will

be held at the community center on from 1 to 2 p.m., Wednesday and April 14, 21 and 28.

The Relay for Life event starts April 30. Register for a

team for \$10 (each team member) and receive a free T-shirt as a gift.

For more information, call Ms. Beth Markle at 479-6026 or e-mail [eam@zianet.com](mailto:eam@zianet.com).



### Correction

The Sunburst staff apologizes for the byline error March 26. "Guarding against danger on the streets" was written by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Ginn, 49th Communications Squadron.

### Women's History Month

There will be a National Women's History Month luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 15 at the Oasis Enlisted Club Ballroom. The speaker is Mrs. Amy Haddad, Social Programs Manager from White Sands Missile Range.

Menu selections are a turkey croissant or chef salad for \$8.90 for members and \$9.90 for non-members.

### Armed Forces Day

The third annual Armed Forces Day and Emergency Services Expo is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 8 in Las Cruces. Anyone interested in participating in this event should attend the planning meeting at noon, Wednesday at Young Park in Las Cruces.

For more information, call Ms. Jennifer Billings at (505) 382-6416.

### Cooler conversion

The conversion from heaters to evaporative coolers is April 15 to 30. Someone age 18 or older must be home during the conversion. If this isn't possible, call to reschedule after April 24.

The conversion schedule is as follows: April 15: 2210A-2227D and 2400-2415B; April 16: 2228A-2249B and 2416A-2441; April 19: 2250A-2269A and 2442-2486B; April 20: 2269B-2299B and 2487-2489B; April 21: 2300A-2308A and 2501A-2540; April 22: 2308B-2354A and 2541A-2589; April 23: 2354B-2393B and 2585A-2599; April 26 to 30: rescheduled appointments.

Housing maintenance will do their

best to complete this work with as little inconvenience as possible. For more information, call the housing service call desk at 572-7901.

### Job openings

The 49th Services Squadron has job openings ranging from opening level to management positions. All are welcome to apply. Look for current positions at [www.hollomanservices.com](http://www.hollomanservices.com) or call the human resource office at 572-5454. Holloman Services is an equal opportunity employer.

### HazMart giveaway

Paints and other items are available for free issue at the HazMart. The program allows authorized users access to a variety of hazardous chemical items free of charge. To participate, shops must be authorized for the item and the item must be in HazMart's free issue area.

For more information or to check for availability, call 572-7899, 572-3093 or 572-7608.

### Litter policy

Recently, there have been some complaints about litter in housing. Littering not only creates an eye-sore, but it is a detriment to the environment and the image that we are trying to uphold. So, in an effort to keep Holloman clean, don't litter. Parents, please ensure that children understand the full effects their littering has on the community.

### Chili cook-off

The Holloman Middle School National Junior Honor Society and the Parent Teacher Activity Committee sponsor a chili cook-off 1 to 4 p.m., April 17 at the Holloman Middle School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$3 and are available through PTAC and NJHS members. The meal includes chili, rice, dessert and a drink.

For more information, call Silvia Papp at 479-3033 or Crystal Calloway at 479-0263.

### Power outage

The Visitors' Center will not have power from noon to 4 p.m., today. Services will be limited. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Stacy Nimmo at 572-5832.

### Red Cross

The Red Cross schedule of classes is as follows:

- Community first aid: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday.
- Basic first aid: 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

### Celebration lunch

**Senior Airman Vianne Dacumos, 49th Medical Support Squadron radiologic technologist, serves up native Pacific Rim pancit, a pasta served with vegetables, for lunch. The Asian Pacific Islander Club is scheduled to host a luau May 27 at the Whispering Sands Community Center to celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month.**

- Adult CPR: 1 to 3 p.m., Thursday.
- Babysitters class: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 10 at the Holloman Community Center.

All classes are at the Alamogordo branch, 700 E. First St., #765 unless specified otherwise.

For more information, call the Holloman Red Cross at 572-7066.

### Holy Week schedule

*Catholic schedule:*

- Sunday: Palm Sunday Mass, 9 a.m.; No CCD, Walk with Jesus children's program, 2 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.
- Monday: Lenten Penance service, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.

- Thursday: No daily Mass; Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Eucharistic Adoration, 7 p.m.

• April 9: A day of fast and abstinence, no daily Mass, Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3 p.m.

• April 10: Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m.; reception in the annex.

• April 11: Easter Mass, 9 a.m., Easter egg hunt immediately following Mass, no CCD, no 5 p.m. Mass.

*Protestant schedule:*

• Sunday: Palm Sunday service, 11 a.m.; Walk with Jesus, 2 p.m.

• April 11: Sunrise service at White Sands National Monument Park, 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at the chapel annex; Easter service, 11 a.m.

## On the BIG SCREEN



### Welcome to Mooseport (PG -13)

6 and 9 p.m., today

### 50 First Dates (PG-13)

6 and 9 p.m., Saturday

### Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R)

6 p.m., Sunday

For a limited time, tickets are 99 cents.









**CES B guard Elvan Rowe moves past a potential block by CES A guard James Denson. CES A beat CES B 71-50 to advance to the next bracket of the intramural playoffs.**

## An engineered defeat

### *CES A team takes B team 71-50*

by Airman 1st Class  
Stephen Collier  
*49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron A team took the ball and never looked back Tuesday night as they crushed the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron B team 71-50 to advance in the intramural basketball playoffs at the Fitness and Sports Center.

The CES A team's forward Theodore Rayon scored a layup to put his team on the board first, followed by a three pointer by guard John Sellers. CES B guard Joel Sarria sank a jump shot, putting his team down by only three. CES A team's defense came on strong soon afterwards, pounding the B team's offense with a steal by Sellers that brought on a fast-break layup, to put his team up 12-2.

CES A guard Jacob Garcia ran a layup down the center to help his team dominate, placing his team on a 12-point run. The CES B team finally got back to the line after a foul on guard Elvan Rowe. CES A continued to break away with two consecutive three pointers by forwards Jorley Vivo and Bradley Franklin, increasing the score to 23-10.

CES B tried to close the gap with a three pointer by guard Tony Wilkins. CES A regained control of the ball with a pick off by Garcia for two layups before ending the first half 37-15. CES A Coach Frank Juarez said his team played phenomenally in the first half.

"We need to keep up the intensity and continue to play at our level," Coach Juarez said. "Often times, when you play teams like this, our players tend to play at the other team's level."

CES B guard and Coach Daniel Castro said his team needed to rid themselves of CES A three pointers.

"We had a slow start and didn't play up to our potential," Coach Castro said. "We gave up too many fast breaks and didn't play with heart. For the second half, we need to step up our game. We need to focus on team help-side defense, contest every time and hustle."

CES A came out strong in the second half with a dash down the court by Garcia for two points. Garcia's team poured on the pressure with a 20-point gap brought on by another three pointer by Franklin, adding to their lead of 52-27. A layup and



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

**CES B forward Tony Wilkins drives a layup down the court past CES A guard James Denson. CES A beat CES B 71-50 to advance to the next bracket of the intramural playoffs.**

two jump shots by CES B's guard Joel Sarria put six more points on the board, putting his team down by 27 points.

The game began winding down, but the CES A team was relentless as guard Sellers sank two more additional three pointers.

CES B guard Castro put another three in the basket, but it

wasn't really enough to make a dent in their 21-point deficit. The CES A team moved on to the next bracket of the playoffs with their 71-50 win.

Guard Carlos Garcia rounded out the CES A team scorers with 17 points for the evening.

Guard John Sellers came in close behind Garcia with 16 points.

## *The Sports Bar*

### Intramural Standings - Basketball

#### Large Unit

Team	Win	Loss
49 MXS	12	3
49 CES A	11	3
49 OSS A	12	4
49 SFS	9	6
49 MMG	7	8
9 AMU	6	9
49 MDG	5	11
49 LRS	0	0
8 AMU	0	0

(Current as of March 4)

#### Small Unit

Team	Win	Loss
46 TG	13	1
4 SPCS	11	3
49 MSS/FW	10	4
49 CES B	8	7
49 CS	8	8
746 TS	6	8
49 CONS	5	10
49 MXS	3	12
49 OSS B	0	0

(Current as of March 18)

## World of Sports

**The recreational soccer tournament championship game is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday on the astroturf field.**

**The Fitness and Sports Center will host the April Fun Run and Walk Thursday. Call 572-3229 for times.**

**The New Mexico "Hike It and Spike It" Charity Flag Football Tournament is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend in Roswell. Entry deadline is May 8. Call the Roswell Chamber of Commerce at (505) 623-5695.**





Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

**Forward Bobby Schmitt, 4th Space Control Squadron, moves the ball past 49th Maintenance Squadron midfielder Dawn Hughes. Hughes helped her team defeat the 4th SPCS 4-0 during a recreational soccer tournament Monday.**

# MXS beats 4th SPCS 4-0

**by Senior Airman  
Martha Whipple**

*49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The 49h Maintenance Squadron's soccer team dominated from the opening kickoff to beat the 4th Space Control Squadron team four to zip.

According to Coach William Renner, the team has never practiced or played organized soccer together, but came out like a seasoned team.

"This game was the first time the team played together," he said. "They are athletes, but came together to make an out-

standing team that plays with heart."

Ermen Rene Barnett scored two goals, and Chad Gloetzner and Luis Escalante each kicked in one.

The championship game is at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday at the soccer field.

# Air Force seeks to eliminate inadequate housing

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
*Air Force Print News*

Air Force senior leaders spoke with members of Congress on March 30 about the service's requests for military construction funding in the fiscal 2005 budget.

In testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee on military construction, the Air Force civil engineer, Maj. Gen. L. Dean Fox, told senators the commitments reflected in the budget request are similar to those of the previous year.

"The Air Force continues to ... invest wisely in installations from which we project air and space power, take care of our people and their families with adequate housing and quality-of-life improvements and sustain the public trust through prudent environmental management," General Fox said.

Air Force officials requested \$2.6 billion for total-force military construction and military-family housing and an additional \$2.2 billion for sustainment, restoration and modernization funds.

The total Air Force budget request is more than \$4.8 billion.

According to prepared testimony,

the Air Force's budget request is higher than the previous year — that includes an increase of \$200 million for military-family housing.

Air Force officials said they expect to use some of that money — a total of about \$1.6 billion — to meet its goal of eliminating all inadequate military-family housing in the United States by 2008.

Portions of that funding will also be used to provide more than 2,200 housing units at 16 installations, to improve more than 1,300 units at six bases, and to support privatization of more than 6,800 units at six bases.

The privatization process means the Air Force would no longer own military family housing, but it would instead work with contractors to have housing privately owned.

The Air Force then arranges to have Airmen rent or lease the units directly from the private owners.

The cost for maintenance of the units falls on the shoulders of the private owners.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas asked if the Air Force had considered proposals by local governments in Germany to privatize military-family housing there.

The assistant secretary of the Air

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**“Just as we are committed to provide adequate housing for families, we have a comprehensive program to house our unaccompanied junior enlisted personnel.”**

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**Maj. Gen. Dean Fox**  
*Air Force civil engineer*

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Force for installations, environments and logistics, Nelson F. Gibbs, told the senator the Air Force was aware of the proposals and was considering it.

"We would encourage them to go even beyond the build-to-lease program and to go into what would look more similar to privatization that we do (in the United States)," Mr. Gibbs said. "That would be for them to construct housing and put it at our disposal in exchange for the allowance for quarters over there.

"They have been apprehensive because of the increased risk," he said. "But we want to talk with them about the success it has enjoyed here and to try to convince them to consider that in addition to the build-to-lease program."

Funding to continue work on the Air Force's dormitory master plan is also in the budget request.

"Just as we are committed to provide adequate housing for families, we have a comprehensive program to house our unaccompanied junior enlisted personnel," General Fox said. "The Air Force is well on its way in implementing (that plan.)"

The three-phase plan involves eliminating facilities with group latrines and eliminating the deficit of dormitory rooms.

The plan also includes conversion or replacement of existing dormitory rooms at the end of their useful life with rooms that meet the new Air Force-dormitory standard.

General Fox said the Air Force has already completed the first phase of that plan.

Also discussed at the senate hearing was the meaning of "excess capacity" in relation to base realignment and closure, Air Force monies being spent on environmental remediation and the locations of new C-17 Globemaster III missions.

For more information about Holloman's privatization, call Capt. William Nelson, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 572-3561.

# Air Force families of high school seniors may get to stay in place

Some Air Force families with a child entering the senior year of high school may get to stay additional time at their current duty stations thanks to a new policy announced this month.

“In today’s environment of deployments and high operations tempo, it’s important that we alleviate stress on families wherever we can,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. “This initiative is designed to do that.”

“This is a policy we think increases the quality of life for Air Force families,” said Mr. Roger Blanchard, Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel. “The intent is to decrease turbulence and increase stability for military families,” he said.

The High School Seniors Assignment Deferral Program allows senior master sergeants and below, and officers up through the rank of lieutenant colonel, to apply for a one-year assignment deferral. Back-to-back deferrals may be possible and military-married-to-military spouses may also apply.

Even with the changes, offi-

cials said the mission comes first and will be the overriding factor in granting deferrals.

“This policy does not mean that every airman with a high school senior will remain in place,” said Chief Murray. “Deferrals will be approved where possible. As in all situations, however, the needs of the Air Force will come first.”

“Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis,” said Col. Kathleen Grabowski, chief of assignment programs and procedures here. “The goal is to approve as many requests as mission needs allow without being unfair, but the reality is that some requests won’t be possible due to Air Force needs.

“We’ll work with people as we always have,” she said. To be eligible, the rising senior in high school must be a dependent of and living with the Airman requesting the deferral, and must be enrolled in the dependent enrollment system called DEERS, she said.

Officers will need to apply before being put on assignment while enlisted people will not apply until after being matched to an assignment, said the Mas-

ter Sgt. Letty Inabinet, superintendent of assignment procedures. Applications are available at military personnel flights and commander support staffs.

Officials estimate that annually 20-25 percent of officers and senior noncommissioned officers have children entering their senior year of high school and perhaps one third of those could be eligible for assignment in a given year, officials said.

“It’s a benefit to families if teenagers can attend the senior prom and graduate with their established friends,” said Mr. Blanchard.

The policy makes official what was already being done informally whenever possible in the past, said Colonel Grabowski. In some cases assignments teams were already successfully working with Airmen to allow families stability when children were coming up on graduation, she said.

The Air Force Contact Center offers information about this and other personnel programs. For more information, call (800) 616-3775 or online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. (AFPN)

## AFPC keeps people connected

Computer connections getting you down? Techies at the Air Force Personnel Center have some words of advice.

Instead of assuming you know what’s tripping up your computer connection, report it. “We’ve had cases where customers trying to take care of personnel business on the Web assume our computer system here at AFPC is down, but in fact the problem may be on the customer’s end,” said Mr. Bob Bushnell of the directorate of personnel data systems here. “And the unfortunate thing is that not reporting the problem may delay getting it fixed.”

Mr. Bushnell said that in some cases the problem resides on local servers or even on an individual’s desktop computer.

“The only way to know is to call it in so the appropriate computer folks can diagnose the cause(s),” said Mr. Bushnell. “If it can’t be remedied locally, they’ll give us a call and we can

usually get things running again fairly quickly.”

There are many variables between AFPC and the end user, officials said. New automated processes across the military have increased the number of cases of hardware and software incompatibility, network bottlenecks and bandwidth problems.

Officials recommend the following steps when reporting a personnel-related computer system or connection problem:

- Contact the local personnel flight system manager to determine if the AFPC system is down. Ask if AFPC has sent out a Notice to Airmen.
- Contact the local network control center to ask about base-level network outages.
- If neither of the previous suggestions resolves the problem, call the personnel system operations control center at AFPC to report the problem. The center provides year round around the clock support at DSN 665-3995, or commercial (210) 565-3995. (AFPN)



# MDG commander tells her story

by Mr. Donald Larsen  
49th Maintenance Group

The 49th Medical Group Squadron went from a civilian nurse to commander.



To celebrate women's history month, she shares her story.

Col. June Gavron, 49th MDG commander was a civilian nurse for seven years and found she wasn't being challenged; the opportunity to travel was very appealing to her, so she joined the Air Force. That was 23 years ago.

"Since joining, I have had the privilege of serving as both an officer and a nurse in this great Air Force," she said. "During this time I have been exposed to all facets of traditional nursing roles from critical care, ER and ambulatory care, as well as those that are unique to military medicine, such as aeromedical, contingency operations and humanitarian missions."

She said the biggest challenge she has faced is the opportunity to guide, mentor and motivate individuals to realize their full potential.

Although she's conquered challenges, she's achieved a lot during her career.

"The accomplishment I'm most proud of is the different milestones I have achieved," she said. "I've served as a chief nurse, squadron and group commander. These opened the door for me to make a difference, and hopefully a contribution, in growing tomorrow's leaders."

She said she's inspired by the successes and accomplishments, no matter how great or small, of those she leads, the smiles she sees and the awareness that boundaries are limitless in achieving their goals.

She said she's also inspired by the women before who have raised the standard for today's generation.

"My favorite woman in history is Eleanor Roosevelt," she said. "She wasn't always popular and she didn't take the easy road.

She was a woman of substance who was able in her own way to affect a very positive impact on our nation, its leaders and our international relationships."

Women in the Air Force have advanced, Colonel Gavron said, but women still have a long way to go, as they are a subset of the society at large.

The events of the '60s and '70s charted the course for many changes in the nation, she said. The women's movement was but one of them. Opportunities for women began to open up in both the civilian sector and the military as Americans entered the '70s. Thankfully, those continue to increase to this day, she said.

Her advice for the next generation is to realize there's nothing you can't do.

"Don't let anyone tell you, you cannot do something. There is nothing you can't achieve," she said. "Grow tomorrow's leaders, prepare them for the future.

"Whatever a woman wants to do is limitless," she said. "Don't tell me I can't -- let me show you how I can."

## Holloman Women of Merit

Mrs. Tracey Lofton, my wife, volunteers countless hours to the base home childcare program. She has established a home pre-school program called Fishers of Men, a Christian-based program that focuses on children's academic, spiritual development and emotional well being. Since the program began, Holloman Child Care Program coordinators, as well as the parents of the children she loves and cares for on a daily basis, have witnessed significant changes in academic advancement, better discipline and self-confidence. Tracey was recommended as a candidate for rookie of the year.

Tracey is also a mainstay in the community. She volunteered numerous hours toward the Adult Education program at New Mexico State University teaching language arts in the General Education Diploma department. As part of Christian Joy Center, Alamogordo staff, she is responsible for overseeing as well as teaching the Harvest Fire children's church program. Her responsibilities include: developing monthly educational curriculums, training and scheduling teaching volunteers, and educating parents about the program. Her volunteer work expands from teaching children 12 months old to young adults.

As a mother and wife, she selflessly finds ways

and opportunities to devote precious time with my two sons and me without complaint. She bestows a comfortable, peaceful and serene environment at home and wherever she goes. I respect, honor and cherish her dearly. I recognize she could be doing other things and traveling the world as a graduate of University of Arizona in Asian studies from which her linguistic fluency in Korean and Japanese language would have taken her. However, she has lovingly chosen to exchange the delights of the world for the desires of her husband and two children. **Staff Sgt. Savaslas Lofton, 49th Operations Support Squadron.**

In November, my maternal grandmother suddenly passed away while my mother, Mrs. Patti Ren, was attending college. Mom only had one more semester to finish. She is the first to attend college in her family and places a lot of stress on herself. My mom will earn her bachelor's degree next month from Park University, and my dad and I are so proud of her. My dad said something about mom's grade point average being called a "Summa Cum Laude."

I know my mom will cry because she will wish

**see MERIT on Page 19**

## MERIT *Continued from Page One*



Photo by Ms. Laura Pellegrino

**Mrs. Tracey Lofton works with Kayla Flora, 3. Mrs. Lofton was nominated by her husband as a Holloman woman of merit.**

her mother could have been there to see her walk across the stage to receive her diploma. My mom made straight As all through her classes while volunteering for my school activities and sports. She is a key spouse for my dad's squadron. She does work-study for Park University. She bakes cookies for the Airmen's cookie drive. She does so many other squadron functions and meals I can't keep track of whom she is making meals and taking gifts to. She also babysits for people while they go to appointments.

My mother hates to receive, but she has lots of love to give away! This is why my mother is my mentor. I hope to follow in her footsteps because how could I go wrong? ***Ms. Khrystyn Ren***

I nominate Dusty, an Army nurse who served three tours in Vietnam working in critical care units. I met Dusty in high school and established a lifelong friendship. Dusty loved all creatures and pursued veterinary medicine. Just short of earning her degree, she switched to nursing.

As Dusty became a fully qualified nurse, the Vietnam War was escalating and so were the casualties; Dusty wanted to help. One day she walked off her nursing job and joined the Army Nurse Corps. With minimal training and captain bars, she found herself in Vietnam. There was no turning back for Dusty; her career started and ended in the Iron Triangle region of South Vietnam. Dusty and I corresponded by letter and tape recordings. Dusty's tapes often included background noises, such as gun fire, helicopters and the occasional cry of pain. On one tape she said, "They trained me to treat gun shot wounds, but not 37 in the same person."

Dusty is most proud of her name, and it's the only name she will answer to. There are at least three other Dustys, who were all awarded the name for the same reason. Each worked at critical care units that had "dustoff" helicopters assigned that brought in casualties. Sometimes, against all rules, a nurse would fly a dustoff mission, work casualties and perform triage in the field. This was done out of wartime necessity to save lives

under the grimmest conditions imaginable. During her tours of duty, Dusty survived three helicopter crashes, multiple gunshot wounds and fragmentation wounds. Dusty was missing in action several times, but was always found alive and still caring for others.

Dusty's career ended while she was unloading casualties from a dustoff helicopter. There was an explosion and her body was riddled with more than 100 pieces of shrapnel; many fragments are still in her. She would not recover this time and today she is nearly paraplegic and requires 24-hour care. I love her dearly and will never forget what she has done. ***Mr. Donald Larsen***

We nominate Nicholle Coupaud as a woman of merit. She's our mom, our dad's wife, a teacher to many and a friend to all.

She's a teacher at Alamogordo High School and juggles English, journalism and yearbook classes. She stands in front of more than a hundred students each day to help them learn their subjects. Being a teacher doesn't end for her when the bell rings at the end of the day.



After school, she comes home and has the energy to take care of us and teach us right and wrong so we can learn to make good decisions. She's very understanding and caring, and always keeps our best interests at heart. Our mom makes us laugh, helps with our homework, and plans our sleepovers and birthday parties. She gets up early to help us with our hair and puts her things aside in the evening so she can spend time with us.

She was a single mom with one daughter just a few years ago, but married a single dad and got two additional daughters. Magically, she can treat us all the same as if we were all hers by birth, but can still make each of us feel special.

Even with all the time she spends for school and family, she also finds ways to help others. Whether she volunteers as one of the sponsors for the youth and pee-wee cheerleader squads for the base's football teams or helps out with the after-season parties that are held for all the sports we participate in, she is always willing to lend a hand.

She's always there not only for her family, but for anyone who needs a friend. For everything she does for us and for others, we think it's important that everyone know that we think she's the best. Thanks mom!

***Kelly Coupaud, Bethany Coupaud and Taylir McDermott***



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

# ***Holloman Hero***

## **Airman 1st Class Keith Bonnes**

### **49th Logistics Readiness Squadron**

**Duty title:** Vehicle operator apprentice

**Time in service:** Eight months

**Time at Holloman:** Four months

**Hometown:** San Jose, Calif.

**Personal and Career goals:** Pursue education in psychology. For professional goals, I feel if I can leave work every day proud of what I accomplished, then I will achieve anything I set in my sights during my career.

**What new idea would you implement base-wide to help prevent drinking and driving?**

Having guest speakers who have suffered the consequences of alcohol-related incidents speak at First Term Airman's Center classes. For airmen in Airman Leadership School, have guest speakers from the NCO tier speak to them about their experiences with alco-

hol-related incidents and the obstacles those actions created for them.

**Core value portrayed: "Excellence in all we do"**

Airman Bonnes is one of this element's most valuable assets. His daily contributions to his peers and the mission are unparalleled. He tackles any given task with unwavering pride and determination. He has strengthened prevention and education measures for alcohol-related incidents by speaking at First Term Airman's Center classes about the importance of avoiding this kind of trouble and consequences of such action to airmen. He is a true professional, who I wouldn't hesitate to have in my flight any day.

**— Capt. Kissa Powell**

*Vehicle Management Flight commander*



